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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,661	12/14/2001	Kenichi Numata	111470	4875

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EXAMINER

BURGE, LONDRA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/014,661

Applicant(s)

NUMATA ET AL.

Examiner

Londra C Burge

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 12/14/2004.
2. Claims 1-8 are pending and claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 are independent claims.
3. The rejections using Rivette et al. and Aoyama et al. has been withdrawn and new rejection have been made.
4. This action has been made Non-Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. **The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:**

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. **Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferrell et al. (herein after Ferrell) U.S. Patent No. 5,878,421 filed 7/17/1995.**

In regard to independent claim 1, Ferrell discloses *a decomposition part that decomposes an inputted structured document into plural partial structures in accordance with a setting and generating a hierarchical relation between the partial structures as first structural information* (Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. a hierarchical structure of a document is displayed which includes a parent or root node from which child or other nodes depend on and relate to); *a structural information registration part that generates a hierarchical relation between elements in the partial structure for each of the partial structures decomposed by the decomposition part as second structural information so*

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that a depth-first node order is assigned to each of the elements in the partial structure and a maximum node order of node orders of elements is associated with each element (Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. a hierarchical structure of a document is displayed which includes a parent or root node from which child or other nodes depend on and relate to and also appear in a certain order); and an information retaining part that retains the first structural information generated by the decomposition part and the second structural information generated by the structural information registration part. (Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. a hierarchical structure of a document is displayed which includes a parent or root node from which child or other nodes depend on and relate to and the information retained for part of the first node which the second structural information depends on)

In regard to independent claim 2, Ferrell discloses *decomposing an inputted structured document into plural partial structures in accordance with a setting and generating a hierarchical relation between the partial structures as first structural information (Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. a hierarchical structure of a document is displayed which includes a parent or root node from which child or other nodes depend on and relate to); generating a hierarchical relation between elements in the partial structure for each of the decomposed partial structures as second structural information so that a depth-first node order is assigned to each of the elements in the partial structure and a maximum node order of node orders of is associated with the element (Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. a hierarchical structure of a document is displayed which includes a parent or root node from which child or other nodes depend on and*

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relate to and also appear in a certain order); *and retaining the first structural information and the second structural information and managing the structured document.* (Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. has a first and second node, the first node being the parent or root node and a second node which would be dependent or a child of the root node and adding additional nodes related to the first and second node for managing the structured document)

In regard to independent claim 3, Ferrell discloses *an information retaining part that retains first structural information showing a hierarchical relation between plural partial structures obtained by decomposing a structured document in accordance with a setting and second structural information showing a hierarchical relation between elements in the partial structure for each of the partial structures* (Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. has a first and second node, the first node being the parent or root node and a second node which would be dependent or a child of the root node and adding additional nodes related to the first and second node for managing the structured document); *and a structure search part that determines by the first structural information an ancestor-descendant relation between the partial structures including elements, and if the partial structures are in an ancestor-descendant relation, determines by the second structural information an ancestor-descendant relation between an element which is located on a path from an ancestor partial structure to a descendant partial structure and is a root of a child partial structure of the ancestor partial structure and an element included in the ancestor partial structure.* (Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. a

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hierarchical structure of a document is displayed which includes a parent or root node from which child or other nodes depend on and relate to)

In regard to dependent claim 4, which depends on claim 3, Ferrell discloses *wherein the structure search part does not perform determination using the second structural information when the element included in the ancestor partial structure is an element, which is the root of the ancestor partial structure.* (Ferrell Col 13 Lines 60-65 creating search objects in each section of the title that draw content from the appropriate content folders using specified criteria and the criteria can be used or no used)

In regard to dependent claim 5, which depends on claim 3, Ferrell discloses *when two elements are included in the same partial structure, the structure search part uses the second structural information to determine an ancestor-descendant relation* (Ferrell Col 13 Lines 60-65 creating search objects in each section of the title that draw content from the appropriate content folders using specified criteria and the criteria can be used or no used and Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 i.e. a hierarchical structure of a document is displayed which includes a parent or root node from which child or other nodes depend on and relate to)

In regard to independent claim 6, claim 6 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 3 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 7, which depends on claim 6, claim 7 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 4 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 8, which depends on claim 6, claim 8 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The applicant argues that Rivette does not disclose of a hierarchical relation between elements in the partial structure for each of the decomposed partial structures (Page 5 Para 5). The examiner agrees, however, Ferrell Figures 9a and 10 and Col 20 Lines 51-67 through Col 21 Lines 1-38 suggest a hierarchical structure of a document is displayed which includes a parent or root node from which child or other nodes depend on and relate to.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Mantha et al.	U.S. Patent No. 5,438,512	issued	8/1/1995
Yoshioka et al.	U.S. Patent No. 5,553,216	issued	9/3/1996
Ando	U.S. Patent No. 5,752,020	issued	5/12/1998


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Londra C Burge whose telephone number is (571) 272-4122. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LCB
3/21/05


CESAR PAULA
PRIMARY EXAMINER